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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 01446 121314 Z

43
ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 RSR-01 /105 W
---------- 046578
R 112050 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4427
INFO CINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1446

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, UY
SUBJECT: ERRO CASE DRAGS ON

CINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: MONTEVIDEO 1421

1. SUMMARY: EXECUTIVE HAS REDOUBLED EFFORTS IN LAST TWO DAYS TO SECURE FAVORABLE SENATORIAL OUTCOME ON LIFTING OF SENATOR ERRO' S CONGRESSIONAL IMMUNITIES. ERRO CASE REMAINS A PRICKLY ISSUE WITH MANY SENATORS APPARENTLY NEITHER WILLING TO VOTE FOR EXECUTIVE' S REQUEST NOR TO ACCEPT POSSIBLE MILITARY CONSE-QUENCES OF REFUSAL. END SUMMARY

2. PRESIDENT BORDABERRY AND VICE PRESIDENT SAPELLI MET YESTER-DAY (MAY 10) WITH BLANCO PARTY SENATORS (ECHEGOYEN, BELTRAN, HEBER, ETC .) WHO HAVE SUPPORTED ADMINISTRATION IN THE PAST. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS AND EMBASSY SOURCES, PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT TOLD SENATORS THAT MILITARY WOULD PROBABLY ARREST ERRO WHATEVER SENATORIAL DECISION. PRESIDENT EXHORTED SENATORS TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH THE MILITARY BY VOTING FOR THE REQUEST AND BY CONVINCING SOME SUPPORTERS OF SENATOR WILSON FERREIRA ALDUNATE ALSO TO VOTE FAVORABLY.

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PAGE 02 MONTEV 01446 121314 Z

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

3. SENATOR ECHEGOYEN REQUESTED 24- HOUR POSTPONEMENT OF SENATE COMMITTEE SESSION SCHEDULED FOR EVENING MAY 10 IN ORDER TO ALLOW TIME FOR MORE " DETAILED STUDY" OF ERRO CASE. ECHEGOYEN HAD EARLIER TOLD BORDABERRY, ACCORDING TO PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SOURCES, THAT HE WAS SEARCHING FOR AN " ALTERNATE SOLUTION TO THIS PRICKLY PROBLEM".

4. POLITICAL SUPPORTER OF FERREIRA TOLD EMBOFF TODAY (MAY 11) THAT FERREIRA' S SUPPORTERS WILL NOT BE PERSUADED TO BREAK RANKS. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, SENATORS, KNOWING THAT EXECUTIVE' S REQUEST WILL NOT PASS, ARE THUS CONSIDERING FURTHER POSTPONING VOTE ON ERRO CASE, HOPING THAT BY THIS THEY MIGHT AVOID COMPROMISING SENATE IN ANY EVENTUAL MILITARY ACTION.

5. ERRO AND " FRENTE" SPOKESMEN, FOR THEIR PART, ARE DEMANDING AN EARLY SENATORIAL DECISION.

6. COMMENT: SENATE COMMITTEE AGAIN SCHEDULED TO MEET THIS EVENING AND FULL SENATE EARLY NEXT WEEK. QUESTION INCREASINGLY BECOMING RACE BETWEEN SENATORIAL INDECISION AND MILITARY DETERMINATION TO ARREST ERRO.
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